

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

Hongkong, Nov. 30.—The French forces on the 14th instant, attempted to drive the Chinese sharpshooters from a hill near Kunging, and were repulsed with a loss of twenty men. On the 16th the French scaled the hill and succeeded in recovering the bodies of the killed, which had not been decapitated. Steamers and junks are now running the blockade, the blockading fleet not being sufficient to prevent their passage. It is reported that there is an outbreak of cholera on the French ships.

Berlin, Nov. 30.—Herr Bebel's attack in the Reichstag Friday, on the military administration of the Government, is causing a great stir in diplomatic circles. Bebel demanded a reduction of the term of military service and the suppression for a year of the voluntariat. He traced the cause of the Budget deficit to the growing expenses for armaments, together with the fact that the country was deprived of productive labor by the men being forced to serve in the army. He asserted that fourteen times more suicides occurred in the army than among the civil population. Socialist papers which publish the official statistics show this to be true.

New York, Nov. 30.—A London cable special says: A tremendous sensation has been caused by the publication in the *North German Gazette* (Prince Bismarck's organ) of a series of letters dated at Capetown, and urging Germany to annex territory hitherto occupied by England in Africa. There is a suspicion that the letters were written in the Imperial Chancellery and are a part of the machinery which is to boom the next Emperor of Germany as the foster-father of colonial enterprises.

Berlin, Nov. 30.—Sir Edward Molet, the British Ambassador, will maintain his opposition to the appointment of a commission on the Niger question, unless English members compose a majority.

The London *Times* is authorized to deny the statement made by Prime Minister Ferry before the French Chamber of Deputies, that just as China was about to accept the terms offered by France through United States Minister Young, the Marquis Tseng informed the Peking Government that France desired peace at any price, and that upon that statement China demanded such preposterous conditions that no power was willing to mediate. The Marquis Tseng did nothing to influence China in the matter.

Zehrer Pasha has been ordered to take up his residence at Alexandria under surveillance.

Bismarck has been officially notified of the propositions of England for the settlement of the Egyptian debt, and that they have also been referred to other financial colleagues for conference thereupon.

New York, Nov. 28.—A London cable gram to the *Sun* says: Court circles in Berlin are discussing the reconciliation which has just been effected between the Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Bismarck. Their hostility had been of many years' duration, and was known to all the world, although it was thinly veiled by court ceremony. Many reasons have been assigned for it, but its real origin was the utter incompatibility of the Chancellor and the Princess. Prince Bismarck scorns and condemns the little niceties of polite society, and estimates woman only as a factor in the problem of the continuance of the German nation. The Crown Princess had her education in a court and country where women were treated with much deference, and where the canons of etiquette cannot be violated without serious consequences. The Princess has been, next to the aged Empress, the first lady in Germany, and she refused to submit to what she termed Bismarck's boorishness. The result was warfare, sometimes open, sometimes covert, as the necessities of court life required. Now there has been a reconciliation, and the question is, which power conquered? The story most current in Berlin is as follows: The Crown Princess, powerful as she is now, will be still more so when she becomes Empress of Germany. This must happen soon and may happen at any time. The Chancellor is cultivating the friendliest relations with the Crown Prince, who may soon be Emperor, and has found it also desirable to propitiate the Crown Princess. He has, therefore, instituted certain reforms in his household and in his manners which make his personality less disagreeable to Her Imperial Highness.

The English Judge who tried Captain Dudley and mate Stephens for the murder of the cabin boy Parker, of the foundered

yacht *Mignonette*, whom Captain Dudley killed and the three survivors ate to save their lives, would not entertain the plea that necessity justified the deed.

Siam has signified its wish to be admitted to the Universal Postal Union.

The number of cases of cholera in Italy up to October 20th is given at 21,519, of which 11,563 terminated fatally. The population is set down at 29,250,000.

The semi-centennial jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne occurs in 1887, and the Court and official circles are already discussing plans for a great national and colonial celebration of the event.

The gambling fever rages more violently than ever in Paris. The Clubs are thronged, and play goes on in tens of thousands of private houses. A women's gambling club was recently broken up by the police.

It is reported that the Congo Conference has recognized the African International Association.

FOREIGN

Chicago, Nov. 25.—A *Herald's* special to-day from Bloomington, Ill., says: Rev. C. S. Smith, who is probably the most widely known and influential colored citizen of this State and who distinguished himself in the late campaign by ardently opposing the election of Blaine, has just paid a visit to the South, where he had a lengthy interview with Major Keating, editor of the *Memphis Appeal*. Smith reports that the interview was exceedingly cordial and satisfactory. Keating said the representative white men of the South had no thought or wish to restrict or interfere with the rights of the colored people. "There will be a change," he said, "but it will be for the better. We shall need the colored vote to help us maintain the victory we have won—particularly in the doubtful States of the North. We will now show that we are the true friends of the colored man. We will prove equal to the demands of the hour and do justice to each and all." Smith conversed with a large number of colored men, and found them either indifferent or in some sense glad that a change had come. Smith declares Cleveland's election means the political emancipation of the colored people, and that hereafter they will be more independent and manly.

Belva Lockwood didn't get a vote in Vassar College.

The German Socialists cast 270,000 votes at the recent election in that Empire.

In the United States.

Chicago, Nov. 26.—The *Inter-Ocean's* Washington special of November 25th says: Mr. Blaine's return to Washington at an early day excites curiosity as to what his friends will do to show their sympathy and it is probable that the return of the Plumed Knight will not be made in absolute quiet nor unmitigated darkness. His friends believe that his bold home-coming indicates that he has decided to take a strong grip on the situation and lead his party. As a minority leader Mr. Blaine would show to splendid advantage, his transcendent abilities causing men of all factions to look to him for advice and action. Blaine's friends here do not hesitate to point toward the White House with a remark: "If he can stand it Blaine can." If Cleveland intends to be a candidate in 1888 Mr. Blaine as fully intends to have something to say about the matter. The facts in the recent fight will keep. It is also regarded as quite possible that neither President Arthur nor Mr. Conkling will be a candidate for the Senate without being in need of votes from several Blaine men in the New York Legislature. The idea of Blaine becoming Don Cameron's successor in the Senate is laughed at here as the wildest absurdity. Cameron is absolutely certain to be returned, and has, during the past week, succeeded in getting his lease of his mansion on Scott circle to Congressman Washburn cancelled. He will take immediate possession, and Mr. Cameron will be most active in entertaining in society this winter. Mr. Blaine, having taken the elegant establishment of Secretary Windom on the opposite corner, will be Senator Cameron's near neighbor.

It is said the Democrats are "engaged in making a Cabinet." If it is to hold all the men named for it during the past week, it will have to be made as large as the main building at the Philadelphia Centennial—and there will be considerable scrounging.—*Norristown Herald*.

A furnished house has been taken for the Tichborne claimant near Southampton.

CHINESE NEWS.

From the Hongkong *Daily Press* of October 21st all that is going on in the Flowery Kingdom of interest to outside barbarians can be ascertained. As a matter of course the fighting between the French and Chinese takes up a good deal of space, and amongst the articles bearing upon the subject there is a memorial addressed to the Throne, in compliance with Chinese custom, from the Joint Commissioners for the coast defense of the province of Fuhkien, of which Foochow if the capital, each praying that he may be sent before the Board of Punishments to be dealt with by that formidable body for not successfully defending the arsenal against the attack of the French. The *Press* deals editorially with the subject matter of this memorial, pointing out some funny paragraphs. For instance; the Commissioner says that he and the Superintendent of the Mamoi Arsenal mounted on to a hill top to watch the battle, inadvertently omitting—as the *Press* says, to mention that the hill-top was six miles off. Further comment is made upon the celerity with which these two attained this safe eminence, they stating that they started for that position after the first gun was fired and reached there about the time the Yang-woo was blown up, an interval of about two or three minutes!

It is evident that the Commissioner wishes to make as good a case for himself as he can. He declares that the Chinese shot, burnt and sunk the largest French vessel, having "two masts and three funnels," and the Arsenal Superintendent endorses the story. As the French did not happen to lose any vessel with three or even two funnels, there is some doubt as to the veracity of the two officials.

The Superintendent of the Arsenal also requests to be punished for not saving the Arsenal from the French, and he improves on the Commissioner's report by stating that the fighting "went on until nearly 7 P.M., when both parties withdrew." He also says that Admiral Courbet was wounded; in fact, each report is a tissue of falsehoods.

On the island of San Chon (St. John's) where the illustrious Apostle to the Indies, St. Francis Xavier, died, the beautiful chapel at the grave has been demolished, nothing but the walls remaining. The bell, weighing 590 lbs, a gift from the Empress Eugenie, has disappeared, and has probably been melted up into cash long ago. This was done in October last, when three mandarins came over from the mainland with about a dozen soldiers and a hundred men of the piratical class and looted the mission premises and houses of the Christians.

In the north troubles in connection with the Franco-Chinese difficulty are spreading in the interior. At Hanchong the missionary-house has been threatened, and unless given up there will probably be a riot. No more missionaries are allowed to go there, and Mr. Thorne of the American Bible Society has been compelled to turn back.

Telegraph lines are being put up in various sections of the country, the wires following faithfully all the turns and curves in the roads from one village to the other. The Port Arthur line will be the first one completed, giving communication with Tien-sing via Peking.

The Russian frigate *Minin* arrived at Vladivostok on the 20th September from her Arctic cruise, with cholera on board, from Nagasaki. She was almost immediately ordered to leave the harbor for one of the neighboring islands to establish a quarantine.

The Swedish frigate *Vanadis*, having on board as an officer H. R. H. Prince Oscar, arrived at Hongkong October 18th, and was to proceed homeward via Suez canal.

The French forces had very little difficulty with the torpedoes laid by the Chinese in the river Min, as they failed to explode because the engineer officers had neglected to remove the safety plugs and put in the fuses. But for this trifling omission they might have done some damage.

Odd Paragraphs.

Such large portions of beefsteak are given at European-plan hotels that people are provided with baskets to carry away what they cannot eat to charitable

institutions. Some of the beefsteaks are a yard wide and all bone.

"It is a sure token of ripeness when you are standing on tiptoe, with your wings outspread ready for flight; when no chain any longer binds you to earth. When we get this in our hearts we are getting ripe, and we shall soon be gathered in."—*Spurgeon*. [This is the place for Spurgeon, under those circumstances. No danger of his being "gathered in" when he feels that way. Our police are too discriminating to trouble a man who feels as good as that.]

A son of St. Crispin displayed the following sign:—

JOHN PEGAWL, M. D.

Boots and Shoes Made and Repaired. A rather consequential physician seeing the sign, remonstrated with the shoemaker for dubbing himself M.D.

"And why shouldn't I?" was the response. "I will heel every sole that is brought to me, and that is more than the rest of the faculty can do. Besides, I may have meant by M. D., 'Mending Done,' and with both of us the letters might mean much the same, as applied to our work."

The Publisher of the New York Times.



GEORGE JONES.

The proprietor of the New York Times is an exceedingly modest little man. He attends closely to business in a little office on the ground floor of his newspaper establishment, and is scarcely ever seen but by few attaches of his paper. Mr. Jones is now becoming so far advanced in years that he is gradually giving over to his son the greater portion of the responsibilities of the management.

An Effective Means.

[Norristown Herald.]

A correspondent of a family magazine wants to know how to boil cabbage without the disagreeable odor of cooking filling nearly every room in the house. The plan is very simple and effective. Place a piece of old rubber shoe on the stove when the cabbage is boiling. The aroma of the rubber kills the odor of the cabbage.

A Bank President's Duty.

[Rochester Express.]

Bank President: "Well, you may consider yourself engaged as janitor. The position, as you will see from the instructions I have given you, is not a difficult one to fill, yet it carries with it a good deal of responsibility."

New Janitor: "I am much obliged, sir, for the place. There's one thing, however, you have not told me about. Shall I clean out the bank every night?"

"Oh, no. I'll attend to that myself."

"The Foreigners."

[Lippincott's Magazine.]

One day Charlie came home from school in a "state of mind." "What do you think of Monsieur Agis, one of the pious pious, told our class to-day?" he asked indignantly. "He told them that the United States would have been an English colony to-day but for the French and Lafayette, and that French was the principal language of the country, being spoken both in Canada and New Orleans. I rose in my seat to ask him if he had never heard of George Washington; to which he answered, 'Oh, yes, Washington was a brave man; but it was the French who beat the English.'"

Whereupon Charlie's mother told us a little anecdote of her experience in Italy: "You Americans have so much better accent in speaking our language than the English have," said an Italian lady to her one day. "I suppose it is because an Italian discovered you."

Superstitions of Science.

[London Graphic.]

While the old mystical superstitions are dying out, the superstitious of science are beginning to haunt ignorant or half-educated minds with quite as pernicious an effect. People are no longer afraid of bogeys or portents in the sky, but they quake at the mention of miasmas or acids in the system. The man who is too wise to see calamity in an overturned salt cellar deems it no folly to ascribe gigantic evils to a dish of strawberries or a packet of cigarettes.

Only Two Days Warning.

[New Orleans Times-Democrat.]

"I'm sorry to say, my dear," said the bank official to his wife, "that I must leave the country." "Is it possible?" she must, he sighed; "my defalcation has been discovered and I have received a note from the detectives saying they will be here in a day or two to arrest me."

Detroit Free Press: The successful and great editors and writers are those who love with all-conquering enthusiasm the thorny and difficult road of journalism.

FOLKS WHO FORGET.

Absent-Minded People Who Are a Terror to Hotel Clerks.

[Washington Star.]

"Can you—ah—er—can you tell me the number of my room?"

"Yes, sir—95."

"Ah! thank you—guess—ah—I'll go and get ready for dinner," and the absent-minded man lounged away toward the elevator. The hotel clerk looked after the slowly vanishing guest, and then turning to a Star reporter who was standing near said:

"That man is a terror. I've seen all kinds of men since I've been in this business, but he is the great original forgetter. He's an inventor and he don't know anything but cogs and wheels. He has been here now for three days, and I have to watch him like a baby. I'll bet he'll either forget his way to his room, or when he gets there he won't know why he went there. It's laughable to you, but it's not so funny for me, because if I don't take care of him he will surely attack the reputation of the house as soon as he gets away."

"Do you have many of these characters to look after?" inquired the listener. "Never had one like him," said the clerk. "He's the worst, but we have a great many guests who exhibit signs of preoccupation. Perhaps the commonest example of absent-mindedness which I see is in regard to door keys. In the winter, when business is rushing, a dozen or more keys will have to be replaced every two days. A guest going away will frequently forget to leave the key in the door of his room or at the desk, and will put it in his pocket; so we have to replace it. The house-carpenter is about as good a locksmith as any in the city, he has had many locks to pick and keys to make. Then people leave articles of wearing apparel, books, memoranda, all sorts of things in their rooms when they vacate. Well, if they are registered correctly, there is no difficulty in returning them their property, even if they forget to write for it; but where a man registers inaccurately or indefinitely it may sometimes be hard work to find him."

"There was an Englishman here last winter," continued the clerk, "who deposited nearly 200 pounds sterling in Bank of England notes with me. The next day he was called to New York by a telegram, and, having plenty of American money in his wallet, he hurried to the cars without paying his hotel bill, and never thought about his money or anything but his dispatch until he reached New York. I have often seen careful people going over a written list and checking the articles off as they pack them away preparatory to continuing their journey. We have more or less amusement with newly-married couples, as frequently the bridegroom forgets to write 'and wife' after his name. When he has to correct his error, he always looks sheepish, and his explanations are very lame."

"O, here he is again," groaned the clerk as the absent-minded man came up to inquire what time the train left for—"for that place in Virginia, you know," which the clerk interpreted to mean Richmond.

The Dude of the Future.

[Philadelphia Times.]

Let no sane man or woman imagine that the dude is really going away to stay. What the ladies love remains, whether pugs, or poodles, or dudes. On general principles a tailor is, of course, an authority on duds. That is, he may be an authority on a dude's clothes. But even among dudes, clothes do not wholly make the man, much less do they determine the primal laws of the dude's appearing and reappearing on the fashionable thoroughfares of this planet. Tailors and their clothes may come and go, but the dude struts on forever.

In truth clothes will do a great many things for clever people, men and women. But come to that, they will not and do not add a cubit or a shading to the real body underneath. A keen eye detects a deformation or a grace of body through the most deceiving or the coarsest clothing. Much less will clothes give the dude an intellectual look beyond the actual calibre of the mind. It is however a good thing to find that the dude is about to ape intellectuality. It shows that the old divine spark has not wholly run out of their short tail coats and kimbo arms. The world is well used to clothes without brains. Now we are to have clothes aping brains. That is the dude of the future.

How Fish Are Distributed.

[Dr. C. C. Abbott.]

There are too many possible ways by which fish can be transported long distances for us to assert that none of them have operated in stocking a neighboring stream with species not native and to the manner born. There is undoubted evidence on record of whirlwinds gathering up immense numbers of minute fish and landing them miles away. These showers of fishes, frogs, and even salamanders, are not unknown, even if they are uncommon; and strange would it be if all such wind transported species should fall upon dry ground, and never into the water. Fertilized eggs, too, can likewise be blown a long distance even over low ranges of hills which sometimes separate river valleys, and so give rise to a race of fishes that previously were unknown in the locality. Eggs, too, might readily adhere to the mud that often clings to the feet of wading birds, and would thus be gently re-placed in a distant river, miles away from that in which they were deposited by the parent fish.

The Incessant Fluctuations.

[Harper's Weekly.]

It is said that more thermometers are sold in Washington than in any other American city of equal size. The incessant fluctuations of the mercury, it is explained, wear out the tubes.

A Harlem husband calls his wife "Lightning," because she seldom strikes him twice in the same place.